



## What is it?

A varicocele is a an enlarged bundle of veins in the scrotum, most commonly left-sided. Varicocele embolisation is a minimally invasive operation where the enlarged veins from the testes are blocked off, which reduces pressure on the varicocele.

## Who is it for?

Varicoceles are relatively common, however they can cause pain and discomfort, and can contribute to male subfertility. Embolisation of the varicocele is most commonly performed to alleviate the painful symptoms of varicocele, but can also be done to assist male fertility.

Embolisation is a minimally invasive and effective way to treat varicoceles, with no incision required.

## How is it done?

Embolisation of the varicocele is usually done under sedation in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment.

Your interventional radiologist will use an ultrasound to guide a tube into the vein at either the base of the neck or groin crease. They will then pass a catheter (thin plastic tube) into the left gonadal vein. The catheter will be passed down this vein into the pelvis where a combination of sclerosing agent and soft metal coils will be placed.

By blocking off these poorly functioning enlarged veins, the blood from the testes is directed into normally functioning veins, thereby reducing the symptoms of the varicocele.

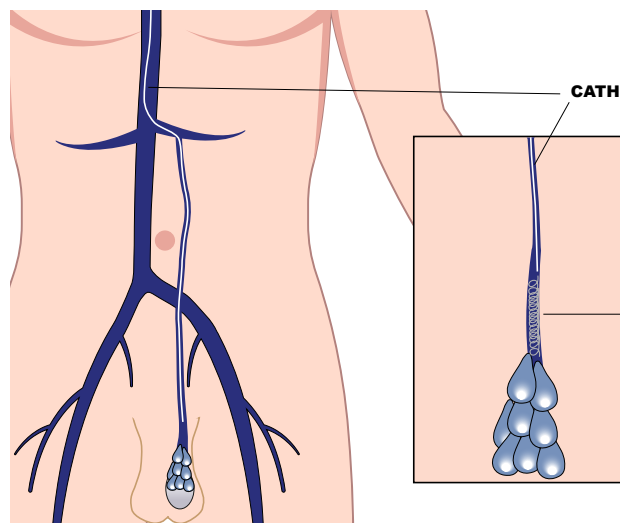
## What are the risks?

There is a small risk of bleeding, infection, coil displacement, pain lasting more than usual, superficial thrombophlebitis, or recurrence of the varicocele.

Your interventional radiologist will discuss these risks with you before your operation.

## Follow up

You will have a phone call from our nurse a few days after your operation. You will also be scheduled for follow up appointment in clinic about 4-6 weeks afterwards.



0497 052 070  
admin@virq.com.au  
virq.com.au